Advocating for a State Supervisor for Languages at the State Education Agency

Suggested Steps:

1. Coordinate the effort with/through the state language organization (make sure all are “on the same page”; make sure the organization is behind your efforts)

2. Do your research: get to know and understand the organization of your State Education Agency (SEA)
   a. What are the divisions and teams within the agency?
   b. Whom should you contact? What’s the chain of command?
   c. How are content areas currently supported? Do other content areas have specialized supervisors?

3. Connect with your State Board of Education:
   a. Attend a state board meeting (Who gets to speak? What are the expectations for presenting ideas and materials?)
   b. Get on the agenda of a meeting

4. Contact your State Superintendent/Commissioner: request a meeting

5. Have your argument well-planned (and support materials ready to hand out)
   a. What do you want and why?
   b. Explain how a State Supervisor for Languages will benefit the learners in the state (Focus more on learners than on teachers)
   c. Have data about what surrounding states (or similar size states) are doing; listen to how the SEA talks about comparing your state to others and do the same
   d. Know to what extent your SEA is involved with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO): is your State Superintendent/Commissioner a supporter or CCSSO initiatives? Investigate how other states’ language supervisors support CCSSO initiatives (from international education, to 21st century skills, to Common Core)
   e. Connect with your state’s teacher effectiveness initiatives and models in place (Share resources that a State Supervisor could use to guide this work with language educators, including the TELL framework, NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements, AAPPL for assessing performance and documenting student growth

Resource: National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL) description of the duties and responsibilities of a state supervisor, as well as NCSSFL’s mission and purpose
http://www.ncssfl.org/about/index.php?about_index